



PROJECT REPORT | 1962

Report on Stakeholders Start-up Meeting, Kyindi Landing Site, Mukono District, Uganda

6 June 2008 • Workshop Report

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Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions



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1. Introduction

Under the “Fisheries and HIV/AIDS – Investing in Sustainable Solutions” project, The Department of Fisheries Resources (DFR) will provide the institutional support through organizing stakeholders meetings and three stakeholders meetings were agreed upon in the protocols signed between DFR and project Management of WorldFish Center- Lusaka office.

The first stakeholder meeting – the start up meeting - was held on 6th June 2008 at Kiyindi landing site in Mukono district. *Meeting Programme is attached as Annex 1*

2. Objectives of the meeting

- 1) Ensure that relevant stakeholders at national, district and community level are fully aware of the project objectives, activities and processes
- 2) Obtain relevant stakeholders comments/inputs on the research project activities
- 3) Understand the next steps of the project implementation
- 4) Launch/ kick start the research activities

3. Expected Outputs

- A shared understanding of programme objectives and processes by the stakeholders
- Way forward on the next steps of project implementation

4. Meeting Participants

The meeting was attended by 56 participants from; Department of Fisheries Resources (DFR), Department of Food Science and Technology of Makerere University, Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Mukono Local Government (technical and administrative officials) and fishers and fish traders from Kiyindi, Kembo Kitamiro and Kirongo Beach Management Units (BMUs).

The attendance list is attached as Annex 2

5.0 Opening Session

5.1 Remarks from LVFO

Kirema Mukasa informed the meeting that LVFO was established to coordinate fisheries activities among the East Africa Community (EAC) Partner States and has contributed significantly in the formation of Beach Management Units (BMUs) on Lake Victoria. She pointed out that during the bi-annual Lake Victoria lake wide tours by heads of fisheries management and research institutions from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, HIV/AIDS has been persistently reported by fishing communities as the key problem. In response LVFO has attempted to link fishing communities of Lake Victoria to HIV/AIDS service providers and donors. In 2006 LVFO organized a regional meeting in Mukono to seek support from AMREF and SIDA. Also with EU support through Integrated of Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP), LVFO has provided health centre micro projects in

Kenya and Tanzania. She concluded by saying that despite all these efforts health services among fishing communities are still low and therefore WorldFish Center support is timely and welcome.

5.2 Remarks from UAC

Nkolo Charles the coordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation from UAC informed the meeting that Government of Uganda first tried to control HIV/AIDS single handedly through the Ministry of Health under AIDS Control Programme but later realized that this was not sustainable and registered little success because of continued increase in spread of HIV/AIDS. He said that UAC was established by the Uganda Government to coordinate and encouraged other government and Non government institutions to participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He was glad to note that DFR is coming on board the fight against HIV/AIDS. He urged the fishing community and local leaders to cooperate and help the researchers to come up with reliable information about HIV/AIDS among fishing communities for more appropriate interventions.

5.3 Remarks from DFR

Dr. Rhoda Tumwebaze welcomed and thanked the members for turning up for the meeting which was organized and coordinated by DFR. She informed the meeting that DFR is principally mandated with fisheries management and development but is increasingly getting concerned about the high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates among fishing communities. HIV/AIDS is a big threat to the industry because it affects the livelihood of the fishing communities, the sustainability of fisheries resources and economy of the country at large. She said that DFR developed a strategy for controlling HIV/AIDS in 2005 but has not been implemented because of lack of funds. She pointed out that donors always ask for current information about HIV/AIDS before they support an intervention therefore this research project will provide the necessary information for intervention. She urged researchers to package research findings in a simple and easy to understand format by all stakeholders and requested the communities to be cooperative and give information needed by researchers.

5.4 Official Opening

Lubega Masengere the Najja Sub-county L.C.III Chairman officially opened the meeting. He pointed out that a number of researches have been previously conducted among fishing communities but feed back has been never given to the beneficiaries nor has action ever been taken on the findings. He was optimistic that this research will come up with information for practical solutions for HIV/AIDS related problems among fishing communities on Lake Victoria.

6.0 Presentations

6.1 Information about the project

Aventino Bakunda informed participants about the objectives of the project, operational area, implementation of the project, funding of the project, what has been done so far, stakeholders involved in the project and also highlighted on what is going to be done.

The detailed presentation is attached as Annex III.

6.2 Research activities by Makerere University

Dr. Margaret Kabahenda one of the researchers from Makerere University introduced Dr Byaruhanga and Mr Sam Akankiza from Makerere University and highlighted their roles on the project. She said their focus will be on improving the nutritional and economic value of low value fish products. This will involve looking at who is consuming the different types of low-value fish products, who is processing them and how; and possibly who is consuming these products. They will also look at challenges in maintaining the quality of fish products along the value chain and how to improve on the processing of low-value fish products to improve nutritional quality and in the process help those involved in harvesting and processing these products to get more money for their catch. She indicated that her team will be working with fishermen on the landing site and the islands next to Kiyindi, traders, and consumers. Another researcher from Makerere University (Nite Tanzarn) will looking at migrations and also assess the value chain more thoroughly. She will focus on economic aspect of things.

She informed participants that currently, they are reviewing literature to understand what is being done in Uganda and other countries. She thanked LVFO, DFR, National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) for assisting them in their work. She further said during June/July 2008; they will start their field work and called upon meeting attendants to assist them when they come in their communities. In September/October, they will start collection of fish samples and in January 2009, they will present their initial results (at Kiyindi) and get comments from stakeholders.

6.3 Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC)

UAC will provide policy and institutional guidance to other stakeholders more specifically to Makerere University research team. UAC was still working out detailed implementation program as was agreed upon in the protocol signed with the project Management of WorlFish Centre- Lusaka.

7. Discussion/Plenary

The technical presentation generated a lot of interest about the project. The following points were raised for consideration during the project:

- a) **Experience shows that men fishers stay on islands and don't move a lot. Women who come from mainland after the death of their husbands from AIDS and go to the islands are the problem. Researchers should go to islands where most of the problems are experienced and not on the mainland where most men have families.**
- b) **Men have a belief that older women are already sick of AIDS and they are now looking for young girls.**
- c) **Research should be conducted along with sensitization about HIV/AIDS. Sensitization should be combined with provision of condoms, testing and provision of drugs.**
- d) **Sick people are skeptical about testing. There is need for counseling.**
- e) **Keeping money at home is a problem. Young people are making money but are not saving. Fishers don't have reliable saving institutions. Therefore, they keep their money at home and is**

available any time for booze and women. There is need to provide saving and credit facilities to fishers.

- f) Many children in fishing communities are not going to school. There is need to target fishing communities and sensitize people in the islands to take children to school.
- g) Research should look at how to improve behavior of the people. Young boys are marrying older women and older men marrying very young girls. This increases infections. Women look after themselves very well. Old women have money and look after young men. For young girls, they go for old men because they have money and can afford their needs.
- h) In islands, there are bars, disco halls but there is no sensitization on preventive measures, testing facilities or use of condoms. Men use the physical appearance of women to judge whether they are free from HIV/AIDS.
- i) In Dolwe, fishers don't have condoms. A packet is about 2,000. This becomes expensive because they also have to pay for sex. The percentage of those with AIDS could be 90%.
- j) In Mukono district, there are free condoms. BMUs should link up with healthy centers and get condoms. At sub-counties, there are testing services and fishers should go there. There is also ARVs. (Response by a medical worker from District Directorate of Health Services – Mukono District)
- k) Use of Condoms as a preventive measure against HIV infection is not reliable. Unmarried partners can use them once or twice during casual sex encounters but not many times with the same woman. They can be effective if both are interested.
- l) Women tend to flock to landing sites when fish catches are high and are often heard asking whether there are good catches.
- m) People have a belief that joining TASO you die quickly.
- n) Drugs in islands are very expensive. For example a tablet of Panadol is about 200/=
- o) People suffering from AIDS used to be small but now they are fat. It is difficult to tell who is sick and who is not.
- p) In islands women are few. There are 8 men to one woman. Men rush for a new comer even when they know that she has AIDS.
- q) We should not blame children for getting spoilt at a young age. Houses are small. Men and women have sex when children are listening.
- r) In islands, there is money. What fishers need is only energy to make money. There are limited things to spend their money on. They feel satisfied to spend their money on sex.
- s) In islands, there are responsible institutions (Police, government officials) but there is corruption. They don't arrest sex workers and don't find out why they go islands.
- t) BMUs should develop by-laws on how to solve the problem of cross-generation sex, women who go to islands should declare where they are coming from and their status.
- u) How best can fishers be sensitized on HIV/AIDS? Sensitization alone is not enough. There should be a combination of methods. A combination of Video shows, drama, distribution of condoms and treatment.

- v) **Researchers should target both islands and mainland and should also assess the problem of TB which is associated with AIDS. People are suffering and yet there are drugs.**
- w) **Born again pastors and traditional healers claim that they cure AIDS and government is doing nothing about it.**
- x) **BMU and LCI leaders should work together and come up with a strategy to solve the problem of spreading AIDS. E.g make bye-laws on scrutinizing new comers.**
- y) **HIV/AIDS is a very big problem but government is not doing enough. Funds for AIDS are being mismanaged. There is need for strict laws. On islands, there are few women who are sick and moving from one island to another yet there are no regulations to establish their status.**
- z) **The project is going to get information on migration but results from research won't recommend stopping people from moving from one place to another. The workable solution is to improve incomes of women to stop sex for money.**

8.0 Way Forward

8.1 Project Specific

- a) Comments made by participants to be considered during project implementation.
- b) In June/July 2008, researchers will start interviews with key informants.
- c) In September 2008, there will be collection of Mukene fish samples.
- d) In January 2009, researchers will represent initial results to receive comments from stakeholders.

8.2 General

- Sensitization on HIV/AIDS should be the responsibility of everybody and not only politicians and medical people. Both men and women should take responsibility of fighting HIV/AIDS.
- Sensitization should be combined with provision of condoms, testing and provision of drugs.

9. Closing

Zziwa Livingstone Mukono L.C.V Vice Chairperson closed the meeting. In his remarks he thanked the project for first consulting the people before conducting research and emphasized that;

- The district needs a clear linkage with BMUs on the requirements of condoms. The district has condoms and those who need them will get them. The district also has ARVs in Kawolo hospital. Any body can get tested and be given ARVs when necessary.
- The district has a programme to establish community radios to improve communication in islands but they require funding. He requested for assistance from the project to fund this district initiative.
- The district will also sensitize fishing communities on behavioral change. There is hope that if BMUs and Local Councils work together, they will help in fighting the AIDS problem.

**ANNEX 1: Programme for Stakeholders Start up Meeting at Kiyindi Landing Site Friday
6th June 2008,**

Time	Activity	Responsible person
8.00 – 8.30	Participants from Entebbe, Kampala and Mukono assemble at Mukono District Headquarters	DFR Collaborator
8.30 – 9.30	Participants travel to Kiyindi	DFR Collaborator
9.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants	DFR Secretary
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome Remarks and Meeting Objectives	DFR Collaborator
10.10 - 11.10	<u>Opening Session</u> 6 Remarks by LVFO 7 Remarks by UAC 8 Remarks by DFR 9 Opening by L.C.V Chairman	
11.10 – 11.30	Background information on the project	DFR Collaborator
11.30 – 11.45	Tea Break	Service Provider
11.45 – 12.45	<u>Project Implementation</u> • DFR • UAC Makerere University	
12.45 – 1.00	Discussion	All
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch Break	Service Provider
2.00 – 3.00	Way forward	All
3.00 - 3.00	Closing	CAO

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/N	NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION	CONTACT
1	Rhoda Tumwebaze	Ag. Asst. Comm. Fisheries	DFR	0772 927889
2	Byaruhanga Y.B	Lecturer	Makerere Univ.	
3	Akankiza Samson	Researcher	Makerere Univ.	0772692200
4	C.T Kirema-Mukasa	Senior Economist	LVFO	0752 615262
5	Njuki Susan	for:Comm. Devt. Officer	Mukono District	0772 829477
6	Nsubuga Harriet	for: DDDH	Mukono District	0772 475198
7	Kiyimba Simon	ACAO		0754 624065
8	Nkolo Charles	Coordinator M&E	UAC	0782 472489
9	Kabahenda Margaret	Researcher/Lecturer	Makerere Univ.	0773 009747
10	Mukasa William	BMU Secretary	Kiyindi BMU	0782 787107
11	Kaggwa Rock	BMU Chairperson	Kitamiro BMU	0752303472
12	Abbo Justine	BMU Treasurer	Kitamiro BMU	0712 321807
13	Odoi Charles	Publicity Secretary	Kitamiro BMU	0752321807
14	Ebwok E.Ben	BMU Secretary	Kitamiro BMU	0754 696624
15	Afisa Ajiko	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	0772 899656
16	Adinan Fadimuwa	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	0772880042
17	Nusura Muhamad	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	
18	Musisi Richard	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	
19	Akena Abubaker	BMU Chairperson	Kiyindi BMU	0775477963
20	Muwonge Yasin	Fisheries Officer	Busamuzi Sub-county - Mukono	0702 658340
21	Salama	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	0773122383
22	Rehema Nalongo	Fish trader	Kiyindi BMU	
23	Bmulakyalo Ben	Fisheries Officer	Najja Sub-county - Mukono	0752 657553
24	Baligea K. Patrick	Fisheries Officer	Najja Sub-county - Mukono	0772 683266
25	Babala Nusura	BMU member	Kiyindi	0775 190888
26	Nakanabi Gorreti	Fish trader	Kembo BMU	0775 898020
27	Alima K.	Fish trader	Kembo BMU	0774 105890
28	Leda Titii	Fish trader	Kiyindi	
29	Olupot Stephen	Fisheries Officer	Mukono	0752 771566
30	Luyombya Siraji	Fisheries Officer	Mukono	0752 711121
31	Ssebowa Christopher	BMU Treasurer	Kirongo BMU	0774 659589
32	Ssekatawa J.M	Secretary L.C.1	Kiyindi	
33	Mutumba Deo	District Fisheries Officer	Mukono	0772 875581
34	Rutangwa Edward	Chairman Mubale	Mukono	0782 999 464
35	Juma Muzamiru	BMU Chairperson	Kembo BMU	0773 349599
36	Batte K. Francis	Publicity Sec.	Kiyindi BMU	0773 394002
37	Lubega Masengere	L C III Chairperson	Najja Sub-county	0712/0755: 807162
38	Nabachwa Mastula	Fish trader	Kirongo BMU	
39	Mugeere Moses	BMU Sec.	Kirongo	0774 393150
40	Dika	BMU Chairman	Kasinyere BMU	0772 333790
41	Sire Muhamad	Chairman		0782 370287
42	Wasswa Emm	Secretary		0774 743120

43	Sam Ongabo	Treasurer		
44	Zziwa Livingstone	L C 5 Vice Chairperson		0774 430155
45	Misanya A. Wanyama	Councilor	Mukono district	0752 546207
46	Sawula Sophon	Councilor	Mukono district	0782 926098
47	Musisi Cyprian	Chairman Fish traders	Ssenyi BMU	0392 965 623
48	Ngabo Sam	BMU Treasurer	Kembo BMU	0774 170333
49	Christi Dawa	BMU Member	Kiyindi	0782 411776
50	Odipo Alex	Sec. for Production	Busagazi - Mukono	0772998714
51	Ssali Peter	Patron for Child NGO	Kiyindi	0774 824704
52	Kizza Gloria	Member for Child NGO	Kiyindi	0752 931203
53	Bakunda Aventino	Sen. Fisheries Officer	DFR	0772 592547
54	Kassim Mugerwa	Fish trader	Kirongo	
55	Ikwaput Joyce Nyeko	Sen. Fisheries Officer	DFR	0772 482599
56	Birungi Rosette	Secretary	DFR	0782 105372

Annex 3: Background Information about the Project.

Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions - Lake Victoria Component

- a. Is a three year collaborative regional research project managed by the WorldFish Center and the FAO.
- b. The project is being implemented in six economic zones where there is significant migration of fishers and fish traders namely;
 - i. Lake Victoria corridor: linking Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda
 - ii. Nacara corridor: linking Northern Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia
 - iii. North - South corridor: linking Zambia and DRC
 - iv. Abidjan – Lagos corridor: linking Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria
 - v. Cameroon’s Marine fisheries: with migrant fishers and traders from West and Central Africa
 - vi. Lake Chad basin: linking Niger, Chad, and Cameroon with migrant fishers from West and Central Africa.
- c. The WorldFish Center is the responsible agency for East and Southern Africa and will implement the planned activities through national and sub-regional partners.
- d. The Project is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through their joint Regional Programme on HIV/AIDS in Africa for the period to March 2010.
- e. The Objective of the project is;
 - To Strengthen the capacity of the people and agencies in the region to develop practical, coordinated and sustainable solutions to enhance the contributions of fish and fisheries to economic and human development.
 - ✓ Specifically, the project will build strategic responses to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector that generate benefits for vulnerable groups in wider society.

2. Project Inception Meeting

- a. WorldFish Centre held a two day meeting for the implementing partner states and agencies from 24th to 25th September 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia.
- b. The objectives of the meeting were;
 - i. Create shared understanding of the project objectives and processes
 - ii. Develop understanding of research priorities and potential impact pathways
 - iii. Agree on common communication and dissemination frame work
 - iv. Develop clear understanding of next implementation steps

3. Progress of Activities under Eastern African Zone (Lake Victoria Component) Since Project Inception Meeting:

National Planning Workshop was held on 13th -14th November 2007, Entebbe and research streams were identified agreed upon.

Summary of Research Streams, Guiding Questions and Proposed Focus Areas

For all country components		Specific to Lake Victoria Component	Remarks
RESEARCH STREAM	GUIDING QUESTION	PROPOSED FOCUS AREA	
Mobility and migration	How can responses to HIV and AIDS accommodate mobility and migration of fisher folk and traders?	Role and status of migrants at community level	More emphasis should be on designing and implementing a pilot intervention.
Fish market chains	How can vulnerability of processors and traders along fish market chains be reduced and fish supply to target groups in wider society be enhanced?	Economic and social factors of vulnerability for women fish traders	Mobilize & focus on women fish traders because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are disproportionately affected by the liberalization of the fish market; - experience the greatest difficulties in accessing productive assets and commodity markets; - Are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS due to negative social culture factors including gender inequalities.
Nutrition impact	What is the impact of changes in artisanal fish marketing chains and in small-scale aquaculture on nutrition security among populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and malnutrition	Nutritional analysis of 'low value' fish products along marketing chain	The following issues be considered during the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - handling of fish/hygiene in fish processing e.g alternative "value addition" technologies -Shelf life of products -Appropriate packaging -Appropriate/cost effective technology -Linking nutrition to HIV/AIDS -Management/coordination of nutrition programme, given the number of institutions involved who takes the ultimate responsibility? - Addressing negative attitudes/perceptions e.g popularizing acceptability of <i>mukene</i> amongst the fishing communities -The concept "<u>low value</u>" may have negative connotations and this should be clearly operationalised in the study

Institutional change	How can institutions engaged in policy, planning and service delivery be influenced to change so that they support successful initiatives and encourage innovation?	Local institutional analysis & Regional policy analysis (public, private sector, civil society)	<p>The proposed areas of investigation and focus included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to coordinate stakeholder efforts considering the multisectoral approach to responding to HIV/AIDS - How to improve accountability and enforce compliance - How do you influence the different levels? - Cost effectiveness of interventions – how do you price the cost of service delivery to hard-to-reach fishing communities? - One of the outputs of this stream should be policy-focused, action-oriented recommendations to lobby, the respective ministries of finance and planning.
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Work plans and budgets finalized

Collaborative agreements (protocols) between WorldFish Centre and implementing partners signed

Contracts between WorldFish Center and the service providers – Makerere University (Dept. of Food Science and Technology) signed.

Stakeholders meeting to kick start research activities have been held (6th June 2008 at Kiyindi Landing site, Mukono district)

4. Agreed National Project Implementation Arrangement

- ✓ The Department of Fisheries Resources (DFR) will provide the institutional support required to successfully implement the project – Coordination of stakeholders meetings.
- ✓ UAC will play a key role in the national coordination of the project.
- ✓ LVFO will ensure that stakeholders from around the Lake Victoria actively participate in the discussions and that the recommendations arising from the project are of regional significance.
- ✓ Makerere University (Department of Food Science and Technology) will conduct the studies

Due to budgetary and time constraints, the Lake Victoria component will focus its field activities on one research site - **Uganda**.

Stakeholders from Kenya and Tanzania will participate in the project component through planning meetings, discussions of findings and development of policy recommendations.